

THE MANITOBA RAILWAY DEAL

(Continued from page 4.)

He points out to the legislature that there is no ground for the exercise of the authority of the railway company of the province in regard to the rates which are fixed under this bargain with the railway company, because they are not discriminatory.

Therefore, the railway company, because it might have the power to exercise the authority of the province in regard to the rates which are fixed under this bargain with the railway company, because they are not discriminatory.

Another point on which a very strong appeal was made to the house is in regard to the mortgage to be given in connection with this bargain. That mortgage should be laid on the table so that the house could see really what it is. Who is going to sign that mortgage? Who is giving the consideration for it? Is it the parliament or government? No, it is the government of Manitoba, and does anybody suppose that it is competent for this house to say what sort of mortgage the government of Manitoba will or should accept? Surely such a proposition is not one for this house.

A-4 surely no one can seriously propose that we should make a foothold of this matter and refer it back again to the people of Manitoba for further consideration. The question is certainly an important one, but it is to deal with just such questions that parliaments are elected and governments constituted. The legislature of Manitoba and this parliament were elected to deal with just such questions, and I for one hope that this parliament is not going to be so childish as to say that because a certain question is an important one, we will not consider it, but refer it back to the province, and then have the province refer it back to us, so that nothing will be done. We are here to decide these questions upon our responsibility, and if we cannot decide them, we are not fit for the position we hold in this house.

Many arguments have been made to throw discredit upon this arrangement, and no doubt many others will be made. But, probably the poorest argument that has been put forward is that the conditions have been changed since the bill came before this house; that is to say, that the people of Manitoba, through their legislature, voted for one thing, and that we are raising another. This contention is made because certain amendments have been placed in the bill by the railway committee. I think I heard my hon. friend from Lac du Bonnet say that he would not support the bill unless it was amended to the effect that the railway company should not be allowed to raise rates in the future.

It is a fact, and it is not a fact, that the people of Manitoba, through their legislature, voted for one thing, and that we are raising another. This contention is made because certain amendments have been placed in the bill by the railway committee. I think I heard my hon. friend from Lac du Bonnet say that he would not support the bill unless it was amended to the effect that the railway company should not be allowed to raise rates in the future.

The idea has been put forward that the people of the Northwest hope to share in the benefits of these reduced rates without paying anything. Speaking for a section of the Northwest, I beg to say that no idea could be further from their minds. We understand thoroughly that when the people of Manitoba pay their money to the railway company, they are entitled to a certain reduction in rates, and that what we do not pay are not entitled to. But what we do think is this, that Manitoba, having taken certain action which, we believe, will result beneficially, has set an example to other parts of the country.

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tion from the people. It has been said that the present government of Manitoba appealed to the people on the policy of government ownership of railways. I do not represent a constituency in Manitoba, but let me suggest what appeared to me to be the policy upon which that party appealed to the province. It was a policy of reduced rates on railways. What difference does it make to the people of Manitoba whether a fact of this nature is carried out? What they want is a reduction of rates. You can call it a bargain or a policy, but it was on that policy the government was elected, as I understand. What farmer or business man in Manitoba would refuse to accept a reduction in rates which would be a benefit to him and would improve his business, on the ground that it did not come under the form or under that? I say that the policy endorsed by the people of Manitoba was the policy of grappling with the railway question looking to a reduction of the rates. I am not here to say that this bargain is ideal. It is a great bargain. We cannot tell how it will work out until it has been worked out. But I say this—that the government of Manitoba, by carrying out the mandate it had received from the people of Manitoba in the late election when it undertook this bargain, is doing a very good thing.

For these reasons I support this bill not because we have not responsibility with regard to it, but because I do not care whether it is a good bargain or not, but because we have responsibilities with regard to it, and because, to my mind, at any rate, it is an earnest and well considered attempt at bringing about a better condition of affairs in regard to railway rates and the railway question generally in the western country.

In supply on the Mounted Police estimates in the house of commons Mr. Macdonald said it was necessary for the Northwest to be formed into a separate province or provinces and made to bear the expense of their police protection. Sir Wilfrid Laurier told him to have patience until after the census. The statement of the premier is a very significant one. If the great trusts of this country encroach on European markets to the detriment of European manufacturers I predict a combination of the commercial countries of Europe to raise tariffs on American goods to almost prohibitive rates. There is but one logical solution of the present situation, continued Mr. Macdonald, and that is the signing of a treaty between the United States and Canada. There is but one logical solution of the present situation, continued Mr. Macdonald, and that is the signing of a treaty between the United States and Canada.

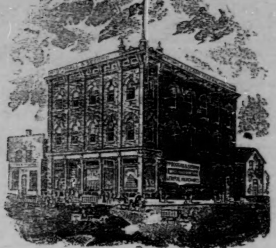
A denial is made in positive terms in a statement issued by the president of the United States in which he stated that he would not receive him at the White House, which brings to the notice of the president has been communicated with on the subject since he left Washington, and declined to receive him at the White House, which brings to the notice of the president has been communicated with on the subject since he left Washington, and declined to receive him at the White House.

The provincial legislature of Manitoba has dealt with this bargain. It has been said that the provincial legislature dealt hastily, that it dealt ignorantly with this contract, but that is a matter which the people of Manitoba can settle with their legislature and with their provincial government. I think it comes with rather ill grace from representatives of that province to insinuate that the local legislature and provincial government did not understand what they were doing when dealing with this very important question. It is because they are not members of a local legislature that they are supposed not to know what they are doing, or that they are not equal to their responsibilities. Surely, in this house we cannot hold such an argument, with so many members of our government and of this house who have served a long apprenticeship as members of the local legislature, and who were probably as competent in their local legislatures or leading provincial governments as they are today in this house.

The arguments that have been made against the details of the bill are arguments which should properly be addressed to the legislature of Manitoba, but I submit that they are not proper for the consideration of this house. This house, in the nature of things, cannot discuss all the details of a bill, and circumstances necessary to give an intelligent judgment on these matters of detail. But, on the larger questions, I am prepared to say that this house believes the bargain to be an improper one, if it believe it to be an improper one, if it believe it to be an improper one, if it believe it to be an improper one.

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